

Statement to the Multnomah County Court
by the parents of Alexander Di Franco
April 18, 2007

It is impossible to adequately express our horror, shock, anger, grief, and profound sense of failure as parents over the actions of our son, Alexander. We apologize with all our hearts to the Crow family and all who knew and loved their son, Kraig. Our hearts go out to all families and young people struggling with the insidious, all-consuming scourge of drug involvement.

We would like it known that we have never tolerated illegal drugs in our home, and that we have battled Alex's drug involvement with professional counseling, therapy, room searches, bed checks, and punishments for the past five years. We have attended his school events, been present, have encouraged him in positive directions, have celebrated his progress, and have prayed for the "turnaround" we have heard other parents describe. We understand that drug addiction is a chronic, relapsing disease, usually accompanied by mental health disorders, and we will continue to seek professional help for our son as long as necessary.

We accept Alex's punishment as just and due. We applaud the efforts of District Attorney Frink and the Portland Police Bureau to root out the infestation of drugs that threatens the lives of students and families at Lincoln High School. We urge the entire Lincoln community – students, parents, teachers, and administrators – to come together to support their efforts and to reject a climate of drug tolerance and denial. We cannot change what happened, but we offer our story and anything else we can do to support the effort and to prevent others from such terrible loss and suffering.

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